

2002 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations

CG Docket Number 02-311

I am a consumer with hearing loss; my loss is moderate to severe high frequency loss. I use the telephone daily with my work and being able to use the telephone is integral to being able to work.

In the highly fast changing world of telecommunications, technology changes happen almost daily. Very few of these changes continue to be held to the standards of land-line telephones under current regulations. If the FCC were to abandon regulation of the telecommunications industry, a person with hearing loss such as myself would be largely excluded from advances and improvements in telecommunications access, equipment and hearing aid compatibility.

As seen in digital cell phone technology, the average consumer has no knowledge, understanding or interest in a hearing aid compatible phone. To leave this huge area of telecommunications, where digital cell phones are now a part of everyday life, unregulated and left up to competition and market forces, would leave this technology unavailable to the person with hearing loss who uses a hearing aid. Even the average person with hearing loss is largely unaware of the technology that allows them to use their land-line telephone, let alone ask for current technology to include those features that would allow them to use any telephone at any time. And those who are not yet hearing impaired would find themselves down the road using state of the art hearing aids that are not compatible with telecommunications technology, only because they were not aware that this area of regulation would affect them later in life.

I implore you to continue regulation and oversight of the telecommunications industry, the ears that depend on these regulations might be yours, and certainly are mine.

Thank you,

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